

plans connected with the report, and without which the report itself would be useless.

HON. MR. OGILVIE—I was at the first meeting of this committee, and at the last meeting, where it was brought up, and I am perfectly satisfied that the majority of the committee were not seized with the importance of that report; they looked upon it purely and simply as a local matter and dealt with it as such. There is not, however, a river from the Rocky Mountains down to the Gulf where ice jams take place that is not interested in that report. It is not very long since we heard of very serious floods and ice jams up in the western portion of Ontario, and the scientific part of this report applies just as much to any river in the world as to the St. Lawrence at Montreal. I am certain, had the members of the committee been seized of the importance of that report it would have been ordered to be printed. I asked specially at the last meeting of the committee that I attended if the next meeting would be held on Tuesday morning instead of on Monday and so did the hon. gentleman from Glengarry, and we had a promise that the committee would not meet until Tuesday morning. I came up here a day sooner than the House met, in order to be at that meeting, but I only knew on Tuesday morning that the meeting had taken place on Monday. When the hon. gentleman from Halifax speaks of the report as having been brought up in the committee there was just a general laugh all round—if Montreal wants it, let them have it; but I am quite sure that if the committee had been aware of the importance of the document they would have recommended it to be printed. I hope the House will have the good sense to vote for the motion of my hon. friend from Kennebec, and have this portion of the report referred back to the committee for reconsideration.

HON. MR. MACINNES (Burlington)—I quite agree with the hon. gentleman from Kennebec when he says that this report is not merely a report from Montreal, but contains information of importance for every part of the Dominion. I am informed that the cost of obtaining this report has been something like \$20,000. It is a

great pity that so valuable a report should not be printed, and the public should not get the benefit of it for the comparatively trifling cost of having it printed.

HON. MR. VIDAL—What is the question before the House.

THE SPEAKER—The question before the House was the adoption of the report, and the report was carried. But the leader of the House asked the indulgence of the House afterwards, that the report should not be considered as adopted. On that there was a motion by the hon. gentleman from Kennebec to refer the report back to the committee for reconsideration, and a suggestion by the hon. gentleman from Montarville that it should be printed by the Department of Public Works.

HON. MR. VIDAL—Admitting the desirability of making this report public, by having a large number of copies printed and distributed, I contend that the motion to refer the report back to the committee will not accomplish that object. In the first place, as the hon. gentleman from Halifax has stated, if it be referred back to committee it must be with a positive instruction to report in this direction, because that committee, after being well attended, and after a full discussion of the matter, decided by a large majority that it was not expedient to have it printed, and consequently the instruction would need to be very specific, that it was not only to be reconsidered but it was to be printed. Then we have to consider that the Printing Committee is a joint committee, and not one under the absolute jurisdiction of this Chamber. We do not know but at this moment the report is adopted in the other House, and what would be our position if we were to direct the report to be sent back to the committee? If it has been adopted already by the other branch of Parliament would it be possible to get that committee to meet again and present a report at this very late period of the Session; consequently, those gentlemen who are anxious to have this matter printed are taking the wrong course to attain that object. The proposition of the hon. gentleman from Montarville would secure the publication of it, and secure it, as the hon. gentleman from Halifax has said, by the right party—that is, the